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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/725,249	11/29/2000	Tapio Mansikkaniemi	017.38962X00	8242
7590	01/08/2004		EXAMINER	
ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP SUITE 1800 1300 NORTH SEVENTEENTH STREET ARLINGTON, VA 22209			KLINGER, SCOTT M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2153	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/725,249	MANSIKKANIEMI ET AL.
	Examiner Scott M. Klinger	Art Unit 2153
<i>-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --</i>		
Period for Reply		
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely. - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). - Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b). 		
Status		
<p>1)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>25 April 2001</u>.</p> <p>2a)<input type="checkbox"/> This action is FINAL. 2b)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This action is non-final.</p> <p>3)<input type="checkbox"/> Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under <i>Ex parte Quayle</i>, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.</p>		
Disposition of Claims		
<p>4)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>1-22</u> is/are pending in the application.</p> <p>4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.</p> <p>5)<input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.</p> <p>6)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>1-22</u> is/are rejected.</p> <p>7)<input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.</p> <p>8)<input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.</p>		
Application Papers		
<p>9)<input type="checkbox"/> The specification is objected to by the Examiner.</p> <p>10)<input type="checkbox"/> The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)<input type="checkbox"/> accepted or b)<input type="checkbox"/> objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).</p> <p>11)<input type="checkbox"/> The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.</p>		
Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120		
<p>12)<input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).</p> <p>a)<input type="checkbox"/> All b)<input type="checkbox"/> Some * c)<input type="checkbox"/> None of: 1.<input type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2.<input type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____. 3.<input type="checkbox"/> Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).</p> <p>* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.</p> <p>13)<input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78. a)<input type="checkbox"/> The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.</p> <p>14)<input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.</p>		
Attachment(s)		
<p>1)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)</p> <p>2)<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)</p> <p>3)<input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .</p> <p>4)<input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____. 5)<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6)<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p>		

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-22 are pending.

Priority

No claim for priority of has been made. The effective filing date for subject matter in the application is 29 November 2000.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to because the blocks of figures 1-3 lack appropriate descriptive legends. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections – first paragraph 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claims contain subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

In regarding claim 10, the phrase “wherein said indicia of the source is short message service”, it is unclear to the examiner how indicia (i.e. identifying marks or indications) can be short message service (a service that allows text messages to be sent over Cellular phones and other devices). Short message service (SMS) is not a type of indicia. It is suggested that the phrase read: “wherein said notes may have indicia indicating the message was sent using short message service (SMS)”.

In regarding claim 22, the phrase “activation of the terminal initiates a request to the terminal is done in order to establish a shared communication session”, it is unclear what is being claimed. It is suggested that the element of the system that is initiating the request, for example: “upon activation of the terminal, said server initiates a request to said terminal in order to establish a shared communication session” or “activation of the terminal initiates a request from said terminal to said server in order to establish a shared communication session.”

Claim Rejections – second paragraph 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 10, 12, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 10 recites the limitation "said indicia of the source" in line 1 of claim 10 (page 18).

There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 12 recites the limitation "said notes" in line 1 of claim 12 (page 19). There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 13 recites the limitation "said notes" in line 1 of claim 13 (page 19). There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-3, 5, 11 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Nishino (U.S. Patent Number 6,233,452, "hereinafter Nishino"). Nishino discloses a wireless information processing terminal and controlling method thereof. Nishino shows:

In referring to claim 1,

- An access point in wireless communication with wireless devices and a server connected to said access point:

"a wireless information processing terminal of the type which is connectable to a BBS (Bulletin Board System), to a provider of the Internet, or to an access point prepared by such a provider"

– U.S. Patent No. 6,233,452, col. 1, lines 12-16

(An access point is a link from a wireless network to a wired network; connecting to an Internet provider from a wireless device inherently implies an access point; connection to the Internet inherently implies connection to a server)

- Wireless devices connected in order to obtain access to bulletin board system (BBS) data:

"Remotely located server machines are interconnected in accordance with a protocol called "TCP/IP" (Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol), whereby a data transfer or a communication on a BBS may be made between the connected computer systems."

– U.S. Patent No. 6,233,452, col. 1, lines. 46-50

(Connection to a BBS inherently implies accessing the data on said BBS)

In referring to claim 2,

- The system according to claim 1 (shown above)
- A service provider connected to said access point to provide network access:

"a wireless information processing terminal of the type which is connectable to a BBS (Bulletin Board System), to a provider of the Internet, or to an access point prepared by such a provider"

– U.S. Patent No. 6,233,452, col. 1, lines 12-16

(A provider of the Internet is synonymous with a service provider)

In referring to claim 3,

- The system according to claim 2 (shown above)
- The network is the Internet:

“a wireless information processing terminal of the type which is connectable to a BBS (Bulletin Board System), to a provider of the Internet, or to an access point prepared by such a provider”

– U.S. Patent No. 6,233,452, col. 1, lines 12-16

In referring to claim 5,

- The system according to claim 1 (shown above)
- A global address server connected to said access point through which said wireless devices can obtain an address of said server:

“a wireless information processing terminal of the type which is connectable to a BBS (Bulletin Board System), to a provider of the Internet, or to an access point prepared by such a provider”

– U.S. Patent No. 6,233,452, col. 1, lines 12-16

(Connection to the Internet inherently implies connection to the Domain Name System (DNS), which inherently implies connection to a global address server)

In referring to claim 11,

- A server containing bulletin board data, said data including a plurality of messages:

“a wireless information processing terminal of the type which is connectable to a BBS (Bulletin Board System), to a provider of the Internet, or to an access point prepared by such a provider”

– U.S. Patent No. 6,233,452, col. 1, lines 12-16

(A bulletin board system inherently implies a plurality of messages on said system)

- A plurality of wireless devices, forming a group (A BBS server is designed to allow multiple users to connect simultaneously)

- Said wireless devices being wirelessly connected to said server so as to provide each of said plurality of wireless devices with equal access to said bulletin board data and to allow each of said plurality of wireless devices the ability to add new data thereto
(A BBS, by definition, is a message system wherein users have equal access to the message data and have the ability to post messages)

In referring to claim 22,

- A gateway coupled to the terminal for providing a wireless communication link to the terminal (An access point that connects a wireless device to the (wired) Internet, inherently implies an application gateway)

- A server coupled to the gateway for providing services and information management services to the terminal (A BBS by definition is a server used for information management)
- A global unit coupled to the gateway for providing the address of the network unit:
"communication means for executing a communication with a wireless base station; means for extracting a base station-ID from data received from a wireless base station; memory means for storing associations between the base station-IDs and the nearest access points of a provider; access point retrieving means for consulting said memory means and retrieving one of the access points associated with a current wireless base station; and means for attempting to establish a connection to the retrieved access point."

- U.S. Patent No. 6,233,452, col. 3, line 63 – col. 4 line 4

(A the memory of the wireless terminal contains addresses to the service providers, and said wireless terminal is coupled to the gateway, as stated above)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishino. Nishino discloses a wireless information processing terminal and controlling method thereof.

In referring to claim 4, although Nishino shows substantial features of the claimed invention particularly the system according to claim 3 (shown above), Nishino does not show at least one wireless device is connected through a second access point, a second service provider, and the Internet. Nonetheless this feature is well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification to the system disclosed by Nishino as evidenced by the background of Nishino.

The background of Nishino discloses multiple service providers with multiple access points:

"Also, most of the service providers have established connection points (i.e., access points) to be dialed-up by contracted users in all major cities of the country. Thus, a user may save his/her telephone charges by dialing up to the nearest access point. In other words, a user may use a telephone line and a modem for connecting his/her own PC to a server of a service provider as its client, thereby to establish a connection to the Internet."

- U.S. Patent No. 6,233,452, column 2, lines 40-43

(The existence of multiple service providers with multiple access points inherently implies the usage of said providers and access points)

Given these teachings, a person of ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying the system of Nishino so as to allow the wireless devices to connect through different access points and service providers, such as taught by the background of Nishino, in order to facilitate users regardless of physical location.

Claims 6, 9, 16, 18, and 19, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishino in view of Mainwaring et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,351,271, hereinafter "Mainwaring").

In referring to claim 6, although Nishino shows substantial features of the claimed invention (the system of claim 1, shown above), Nishino does not show resembling a physical bulletin board having notes attached thereto. Nonetheless this feature is well known in the art and would have been an obvious addition to the system disclosed by Nishino as evidenced by Mainwaring.

In analogous art, Mainwaring discloses a method and apparatus for sending and receiving lightweight messages. Mainwaring shows bulletin board data is displayed to resemble a physical bulletin board having notes attached thereto:

"FIG. 13 is a screen shot of the touch screen display 156 of a ScanBoard IDU 152. The user interface resembles a bulletin board comprising images that have been scanned into the system. The appliance's display can be in one of two states: a shared view of a group area or a local view of a single item. The shared view consists of a "pile" of potentially overlapping items, displayed in a photo-reduced, "thumbnail" form. If two items overlap, the one at the higher level occludes the one at the lower level. All users in a group area share the same shared view. When an item is displayed with a local view, the screen shows only that item, in photo-magnified form."

- U.S. Patent No. 6,351,271, col. 8, lines 20-31

Given these teachings, a person of ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying the system of Nishino so as to display the notes of the BBS as if they were on a physical bulletin board, such as taught by Mainwaring, in order to provide a user friendly display of the notes, emulating a bulletin board that is familiar to the user(s).

In referring to claim 9, Nishino in view of Mainwaring shows,

- The system of claim 6 (shown above)
- The display is changed to introduce a new note (The viewing of a note from a BBS inherently implies a display change, in order to view said note)
- Said note is shared with each of said plurality of devices (A BBS, by definition, is a message system wherein users have equal access to the message data and have the ability to post messages)

In referring to claim 16, although Nishino shows substantial features of the claimed invention, including a server containing bulletin board data, wirelessly connecting a plurality of wireless devices to said server, and accessing said bulletin board data from said wireless device:

“a wireless information processing terminal of the type which is connectable to a BBS (Bulletin Board System), to a provider of the Internet, or to an access point prepared by such a provider”

– U.S. Patent No. 6,233,452, col. 1, lines 12-16

(A BBS is, by definition, a server with bulletin board data)

However, Nishino does not show displaying the data as notes arranged on a screen. Nonetheless this feature is well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification to the system disclosed by Nishino as evidenced by Mainwaring.

In analogous art, Mainwaring discloses a method and apparatus for sending and receiving lightweight messages. Mainwaring shows displaying bulletin board data as notes arranged on a screen (see claim 6 above).

Given these teachings, a person of ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying the system of Nishino so as to display the notes of the BBS as notes arranged on a screen, such as taught by Mainwaring, in order provide a user friendly display of the notes, emulating a bulletin board that is familiar to the user(s).

In referring to claim 18, Nishino in view of Mainwaring shows,

- The method according to claim 16 (shown above)
- Said wireless devices are connected to said server through an access point:
"a wireless information processing terminal of the type which is connectable to a BBS (Bulletin Board System), to a provider of the Internet, or to an access point prepared by such a provider"
– U.S. Patent No. 6,233,452, col. 1, lines 12-16

(An access point is a link from a wireless network to a wired network; connecting to an Internet provider from a wireless device inherently implies an access point; connection to the Internet inherently implies connection to a server)

In referring to claim 19, Nishino in view of Mainwaring shows,

- The method according to claim 18 (shown above)
- Said access point is connected to said server through a service provider connected to the internet:
"a wireless information processing terminal of the type which is connectable to a BBS (Bulletin Board System), to a provider of the Internet, or to an access point prepared by such a provider"
– U.S. Patent No. 6,233,452, col. 1, lines 12-16

(A provider of the Internet is synonymous with a service provider)

Claims 7, 17, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishino in view of Mainwaring and in further view of Maurille (U.S. Patent Number 6,484,196, hereinafter “Maurille”).

In referring to claim 7, although Nishino in view of Mainwaring shows substantial features of the claimed invention (see claim 6 above), Nishino in view of Mainwaring does not show notes of different colors and indicia indicating the source of said notes. Nonetheless this feature is well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification to the system disclosed by Nishino in view of Mainwaring as evidenced by Maurille.

In analogous art, Maurille discloses an Internet messaging system and method for use in computer networks. Maurille shows:

- Different colors for the notes:

“To assist user recognition of the different message levels and the status of those messages (read, unread, etc.), the displayed embodiment employs color and icons in addition to indentation ...In the illustrated embodiment the information line of incoming messages is underlined with different colors depending on whether the message has been responded to (shown in purple) or need to be responded to (shown in blue). Alternatively, the information line of all incoming messages can be shown in one color (e.g., blue) and with underlining only when the incoming message has not yet been responded to. Note that these display features (indentation, color, icons) are not required by the present invention but are niceties to assist users in navigating the open, threaded communication board 400.”

- U.S. Patent No. 6,484,196, col. 13, lines 11-28

- Indicia indicating the source of the notes:

(Figure 4B, element 245, shows the sender name for a message)

Given these teachings, a person of ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying the system of Nishino in view of Mainwaring so as to employ different colors such as taught by Maurille, in order to assist users in navigating the open, threaded communication board.

In referring to claim 17, although Nishino in view of Mainwaring shows substantial features of the claimed invention (see claim 16 above), Nishino in view of Mainwaring does not show notes of different colors and indicia indicating the source of said notes. Nonetheless this feature is well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification to the system disclosed by Nishino in view of Mainwaring as evidenced by Maurille.

In analogous art, Maurille discloses an Internet messaging system and method for use in computer networks. Maurille shows:

- Different colors for the notes (see claim 7 above)
- Indicia indicating the source of the notes (see claim 7 above)

Given these teachings, a person of ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying the system of Nishino in view of Mainwaring so as to employ different colors such as taught by Maurille, in order to assist users in navigating the open, threaded communication board.

In referring to claim 20 Nishino in view of Mainwaring and in further view of Maurille shows,

- The method of claim 17 (shown above)

- A global address server through which said wireless devices can obtain an address of said server:

"a wireless information processing terminal of the type which is connectable to a BBS (Bulletin Board System), to a provider of the Internet, or to an access point prepared by such a provider"

– U.S. Patent No. 6,233,452, col. 1, lines 12-16

(Connection to the Internet inherently implies connection to the Domain Name System (DNS), which inherently implies connection to a global address server)

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishino in view of Mainwaring and in further view of Carau (U.S. Patent Number 6,266,048, hereinafter "Carau"). Although Nishino in view of Mainwaring shows substantial features of the claimed invention (see claim 6 above), Nishino in view of Mainwaring does not show the display changing to introduce a new note, said note being typed on a virtual keyboard. Nonetheless this feature is well known in the art and would have been an obvious (addition/modification) to the system disclosed by Nishino in view of Mainwaring as evidenced by Carau.

In analogous art, Carau discloses a virtual display and keyboard for computer creating by projecting virtual keyboard pattern of keys onto flat, light colored surface and embodying remote sensing for determining which virtual keys are selected. Carau shows:

- The display changing to introduce a new note (The viewing of a note from a BBS inherently implies a display change, in order to view said note)
- A virtual keyboard for inputting text (Figures 1-3 show the virtual keyboard)

Given these teachings, a person of ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the

desirability and advantages of modifying the device of Nishino in view of Mainwaring so as to allow notes to be typed on a virtual keyboard, such as taught by Carau, in order to overcome the size limitations of portable wireless devices while keeping the functionality of a full sized keyboard.

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishino in view of Carau. Although Nishino shows substantial features of the claimed invention (see claim 11 above, Nishino does not show notes being typed on a virtual keyboard. Nonetheless this feature is well known in the art and would have been an obvious (addition/modification) to the system disclosed by Nishino as evidenced by Carau.

In analogous art, Carau discloses a virtual display and keyboard for computer creating by projecting virtual keyboard pattern of keys onto flat, light colored surface and embodying remote sensing for determining which virtual keys are selected. Carau shows a virtual keyboard for a inputting text (Figures 1-3 show the virtual keyboard).

Given these teachings, a person of ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying the device of Nishino so as to allow notes to be typed on a virtual keyboard, such as taught by Carau, in order to overcome the size limitations of portable wireless devices while keeping the functionality of a full sized keyboard.

Claims 15 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishino in view of Maurille.

In referring to claim 15, although Nishino shows substantial features of the claimed invention (see claim 11 above), Nishino does not explicitly show the bulletin board data including a list view of all messages. Nonetheless this feature is well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification to the system disclosed by Nishino as evidenced by Maurille.

In analogous art, Maurille discloses an Internet messaging system and method for use in computer networks. Maurille shows a list view of messages (Figure 4B shows a list view of messages in a messaging system).

Given these teachings, a person of ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying the system of Nishino so as to show the messages in a list view, such as taught by Maurille, in order to view the messages in chronological order.

In referring to claim 21, Nishino shows substantial features of the claimed invention including:

- A terminal with an identifier, a gateway, an access point, and a server:

"It is another object of this invention to provide an improved wireless information processing terminal that is connectable to a BBS or to an access point prepared by an internet provider for communicating data, and a method of controlling the same.

It is yet another object of this invention to provide an improved wireless information processing terminal that is connectable to an appropriate one of the access points prepared by an internet provider even under a mobile environment (i.e., at each moving location), and a method of controlling the same"

-U.S. Patent No. 6,233,452, col. 3, lines 43-53

(A wireless device that connects to an access point which is in turn connected to an Internet provider, inherently implies a gateway through which a server is accessed; A means to identify the terminal is inherent in a network system)

- The server having information of the valid identifiers of the terminals enabling service ()

However, Nishino does not show a configuration tool. Nonetheless this feature is well known in the art and would have been an obvious addition to the system disclosed by Nishino as evidenced by Maurille.

In analogous art, Maurille discloses an Internet messaging system and method for use in computer networks. Maurille shows a configuration tool:

"In particular, the present invention is a communication board system with multiple modes in which the communication board system can be variously configured as: a threaded instant message system (conversation history plus instant access capabilities); an open display bulletin board system (conversation-history plus open display capabilities); private message boards (conversation history plus private conversations capabilities); a system allowing message locking (conversation history plus agreement capabilities); and a threaded mail system."

- U.S. Patent No. 6,484,196, col.2, line 56 – col. 3, line 1

(A system with multiple configurable modes inherently implies a means for configuring said modes)

Given these teachings, a person of ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying the system of Nishino so as to use a configuration tool, such as taught by Maurille, in order to allow the BBS to be configured to the specific needs of the users.

Conclusion

Art Unit: 2153

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Scott M. Klinger whose telephone number is (703) 305-8285. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00am - 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Burgess can be reached on (703) 305-4792. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 746-3183. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Scott M. Klinger
Examiner
Art Unit 2153

smk
19 December 2003



GLENTON B. BURGESS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100